



Attendance this week = 90%



Friday, 12th November 2021

St John's Weekly Newsletter

Growing Together in Love and Respect

Dear St John's families,

I have missed you all this week, as I have been a bit poorly. I am glad to say it wasn't COVID but I still had to be sensible and spend time away from school. I have been keeping up to date in the background. I was most sad to miss the Remembrance service on Thursday. I heard how well the children did. Remembrance, for me, is such an important event and I still have memories from my own childhood of attending church as part of my Girl Guides unit, carrying the flag, honouring those who came before us. It was lovely to hear Father Sam attended, who works closely with Father David.

This week's newsletter has important information all the way through. Please keep reading until the end.

I can't wait to see everyone's stars, there is a remind in the newsletter and it is also on google classroom.

The key dates list is very long for this half term and we are working hard to ensure give as much notice as we can. You will notice we often leave something in the newsletter just incase you miss it the first time.

Mrs Samantha Da Costa
Headteacher



[Children in Need](#) on Friday (19th November). We invite the children to wear something yellow or spotty.

There will be buckets out and also you can donate here:

<https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>

Reporting Absence

If we don't answer the phone please leave a message with: Child's full name, class and brief details about illness.

Please ensure you say more than just ill.

We are short staffed in the office and we always listen to the messages.

Key Dates

Friday 19th November

Children in Need - Wear something spotty or yellow.

Bag 2 School - supporting the Friends. Bring clothing donations to school by 9am on the day. See Pg5 for more details.

Tuesday 23rd November

Year 3A - Retreat day in church

Wednesday 24th November

Flu Vaccinations - Please see separate email.

Year 1 & 2 Trip to Cineworld Watford

Thursday 25th November

Year 3B - Retreat day in church
Stars for decorating the hall due in

Monday 29th November

Inset Day - School Closed

Tuesday 7th December

Year 1 Nativity with Year 1 families, 2pm

Thursday 9th December

Reception Nativity with Reception families, 2pm

Year 3 Collective Worship to parents 2.40pm

Wednesday 15th December

Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day

Monday 20th December

Year 2 Christingle with their families at St John's Church 9.30am

Tuesday 21st December

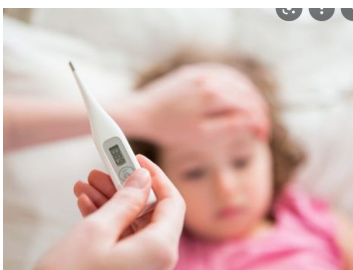
Last Day of Term. Break up at 2pm.
No After School Club

Wednesday 6th January 2022

Inset Day - School Closed

Thursday 7th January 2022

Back to School



Festive Celebrations at St John's



We are excited to be able to invite our St John's families to our festive celebrations, these events are part of a programme of events scheduled to take place throughout the school year.

It is important that we continue to work together to keep our community safe during the current Covid pandemic, therefore we ask that only **ONE family member attend per child**. Please wear a face covering unless except and please do not attend if you are feeling unwell.

Celebration	Year Group	Date	Time
Nativity	Year 1	7th December 2021	2:00pm
Collective Worship	Year 3	9th December 2021	2:40pm
Nativity	Reception	9th December 2021	2:00pm
Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day	Whole School	15th December 2021	All Day
Christingle	Year 2	20th December 2021	9:30am

St John's Festive Stars

Before half term, we asked everyone to make a festive star to decorate the school hall.

We hope that you have enjoyed working together with your children to design and create a St John's festive star, we are looking forward to seeing the wonderful individual designs which will be a focal point for the school in December.

If you haven't made a star yet, you still have time! Remember that the star should be at least 20 cm in height and no larger than 40cm. It can be any colours you like and can be as sparkly as you like. Please do not make it too heavy as we need to hang each start from string, however you are welcome to make it 3D. Please bring your star to school with a piece or ribbon or string securely attached of about ½ metre and your name written clearly but discreetly on it.

Your completed star should be handed to your class teacher

by Thursday 25th November 2021



Remembrance Day, 11.11.2021

The St John's Church of England School value for November is Courage. The children have been learning about Remembrance and have created a variety of artwork. The Year Five children led a Remembrance Collective Worship in St John's Church with their families.



Reception learnt about the importance of Poppies and why that are worn for Remembrance. The children worked together and made whole class wreaths and crosses using tissue paper. They enjoyed making poppies using different construction equipment too.

Year 2 Terra have been using charcoal to create Remembrance art.

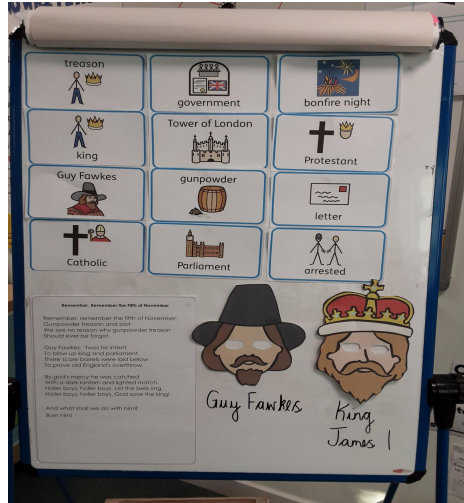


The St John's children's hand painted poppies are currently displayed outside our school building



St John's children at work

Year 2, Aqueous class enjoyed learning about Guy Fawkes and his role in the Gunpowder Plot on 5th November 1605. We drew some fireworks using chalk on black paper. In History we sequenced the events leading up to the Gunpowder Plot and what happened afterwards. We also read the poem "Remember, Remember the Fifth of November." Some children even used some masks to role play the events in their free time!



Dear neighbours,

Firstly, thank you for your fabulous invitation you gave me. Secondly, I am Likhana from the Varalakshmi family nextdoor. I am writing to you to accept your kind invitation to get to know you. Would you like to know more about us? In addition, we could get each others phone numbers and we could be best friends forever. So you know, still again, thank you for your wonderful, awesome invitation. Also, when we have a party we will invite you.

Furthermore, I would love to come at 6:00 pm. But I am a little bit apprehensive because the virus was acting weird and so was the social worker. I hope everything is fine, okay.

Finally, please text me or call me explaining what's wrong because I am here for you. I will get ready now do you want me to bring any snacks, drinks and games? I will come at 5:00 pm so I can help you decorate your room, your magical house. I can do that if you want? It's fine with me.

P.S. I can't wait

Your sincerely,
Likhana Varalakshmi

Year 4 have been writing letters to the neighbours in Valerie Bloom's poem 'The People Next Door'. The children thought about targets, including using fronted adverbials, edited a draft before rewriting with the changes using a handwriting pen.



Thursday 11th November 2021
Edit and improve a letter

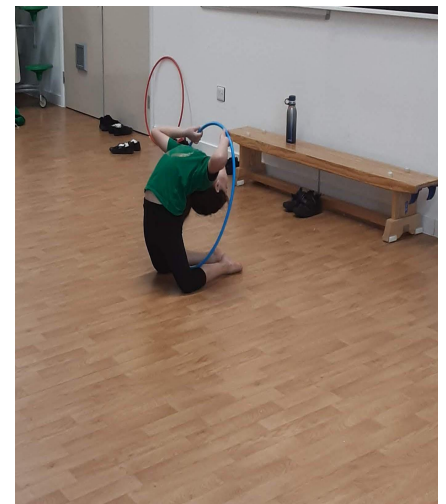
Dear Neighbours,

As you know, I am Aaron from the Zhou family. I would like to thank you for the glittering invitation. However, I will decline it because I have some concerns.

Furthermore, I am not coming because normal people that go in either come out acting odd or disappear. Also, shy animals come to our beautiful garden instead of yours.

Overall, I am really sorry. I hope you understand my decision. If you need any help, you can always come round. Maybe we could arrange something in the future?

Yours sincerely,
Aaron



Year 2 Terra have been using charcoal to create remembrance art. They have been looking at pointillism and making dotty paintings for our Christmas card designs. In P.E. the children have been looking at dance, and how to balance and dance whilst using a hula hoop.



Information for St John's Families

St John's Church of England Primary School Office

A new Admin Assistant has been recruited, the office team are busier than usual and we are looking forward to our new staff member joining our school staff family in time for Christmas. The school team are working hard to continue to support the St John's children, families, staff and community, the following is provided to help the staff team to help you.

The school website and weekly newsletter is the first point of reference for information about school life.

All email and telephone enquiries will be dealt with in order of priority. Please include your child's first and last name as well as their class in all correspondence.

Please call the school office to report an absence and please leave a voicemail if you are unable to speak to a member of office staff. Don't forget to provide your child's first and last name, Class name or Class Teacher and the reason for their absence i.e. sickness, fever etc.

Please let the office team know if you have made arrangements for another adult to collect your child from school.

Thank you for your patience and continued support.

Bag 2 School Collection, Friday 19th November 2021

The Friends of St John's can turn your clothes into cash to fund exciting projects and opportunities for the St John's children. Please bag up your good quality clothes and **please bring your donations to school on 19th November before 9am**

Bag 2 School is a great opportunity to declutter your home, reduce the amount of clothing in landfills and help to raise

Please visit the [Bag 2 School website](#) for more information and a full list of what can be donated.



Online Safety

For e-safety support and advice please click on this [link](#) Please click on the links below for more information on e-safety.

[Think you know](#)

[Disney Wild](#)

[About Safety](#)

[Smartie The Penguin](#)

[Childnet Safety Internet](#)

[A useful guide to apps to help keep your child safe online](#)

School Milk

If your child is over the age of 5 and you want to register them for school milk. Please use this [link](#).

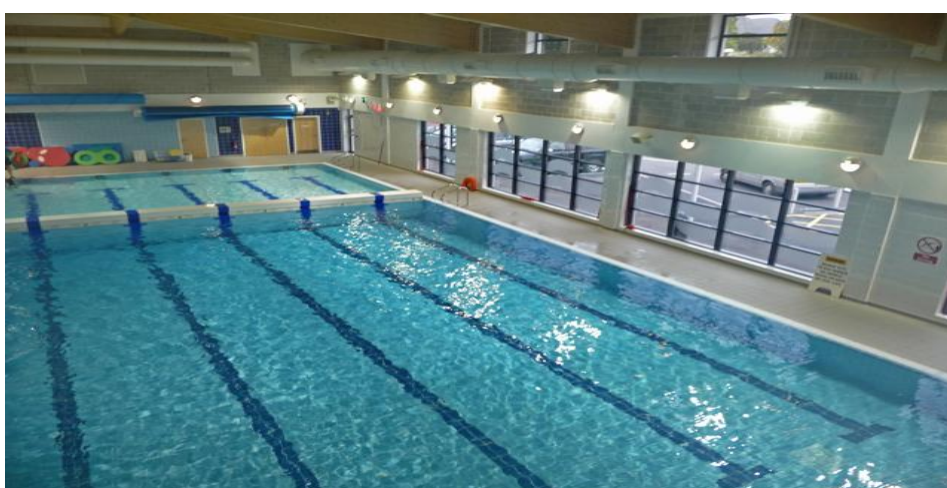
Cool Milk

Information for St John's Families

Volunteers needed for Year 5 Swimming

Volunteers are required to walk to and from Watford Central Leisure Centre with the Year Five children and Class Teacher every Wednesday at 1:30pm until the end of term.

Please contact the school office if you are available to help.



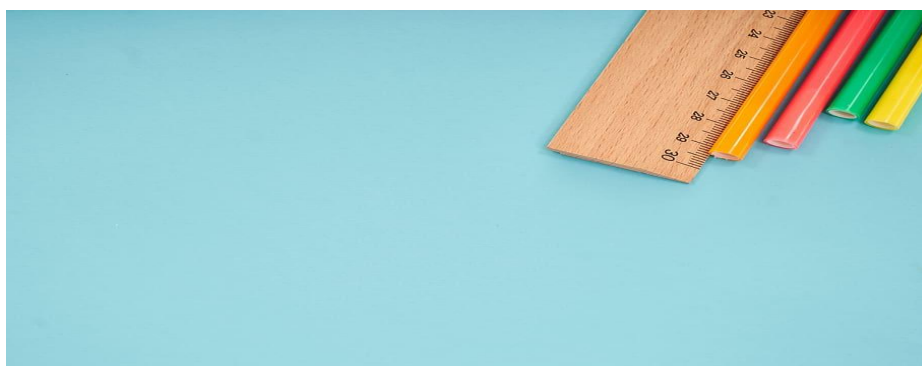
Super Steps After School Club

We are pleased to announce that Super Steps After School Club is getting ready to open its doors to those St John's families who still require wraparound childcare. This service is run Super Steps Nursery, an external company who will collect the children from St John's Church of England Primary School at the end of the school day and walk with them to their premises in the church hall in Estcourt Road.

Families will need to book directly with Super Steps using the following link <https://supersteps.magicbooking.co.uk> All enquiries for Super Steps After School Club bookings will need to be made directly to them and not to the school. The link for bookings is now live for sessions starting from 15th November.

We hope that this will support our families who still need after school childcare and mean that we will have more flexibility so that those who need ad hoc sessions will be able to book at either the school's service or through Super Steps.

Homework and Curriculum



The new Autumn 2 home learning grids are now live on our school website

<https://watfordstjohns.org/info-for-parents/communication/>

There are a range of activities for the children to do. You can choose which activities you'd prefer to work on and you are free to complete them in any order. Information about how to share the work is included on the grid. We have selected a range of tasks to support the children's learning in a variety of ways.

A new page on our website signposting workshops:

<https://watfordstjohns.org/parents/parent-support/>

KIRFs - **K**ey **I**nstant **R**ecall **F**acts - These are important maths facts to learn. As you move up the colours the facts get harder. Underneath the KIRFs you will find key words to learn to spell.

You will find these here:

<https://watfordstjohns.org/info-for-parents/communication/>

Termly Overviews:

To help our families know what their children are learning in class we have created overviews which you will find here:

<https://watfordstjohns.org/info-for-parents/curriculum/>

St John's School Admissions Consultation

St John's Church of England Primary School is consulting on the proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2023-24 and is seeking responses from parents/carers, schools and community group.

The consultation runs until 12th December 2021.

Please view the **Consultations** page on our school website for full details.

Comments should be sent directly to our school office.

Past newsletters will be available as links on our school website.

<https://watfordstjohns.org/info-for-parents/communication/>